

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A locking device for a dumpster container, said dumpster container being movable between an upright storing position and a tilted dumping position, said locking device comprising:

a main locking device selectively moveable between an engaged position, where said main locking device engages the dumpster container to retain the dumpster container in the upright storing position, and a disengaged position, where said main locking device disengages the dumpster container to permit movement of the dumpster container into the tilted dumping position;

a blocking plate pivotally coupled to said main locking device, said blocking plate being selectively moveable between a blocking position, where said blocking plate prevents said main locking device from moving from said engaged position to said disengaged position, and an unblocking position;

a handle linkage pivotally coupled to at least said blocking plate, said handle linkage being selectively moveable to move said blocking plate between said blocking position and said unblocking position.

2. The locking device according to Claim 1 wherein said handle linkage is further pivotally coupled to said main locking device.

3. The locking device according to Claim 1 wherein said unblocking position of said blocking plate occurs prior to an overcenter position.

4. The locking device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
an interconnecting linkage pivotally coupled between said handle linkage and said blocking plate.

5. The locking device according to Claim 1 wherein said handle linkage is angularly shaped such that when said blocking plate is in said unblocking position, a free end of said handle linkage is generally parallel to and adjacent said main locking device.

6. The locking device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
a handle extension simultaneously engagable with said handle linkage and said main locking device.

7. The locking device according to Claim 1 wherein said blocking plate is biased into said blocking position in response to gravity.

8. A method for locking a dumpster container in a storage position, the method comprising:

engaging the container with a main locking device such that the dumpster container remains in the storage position;

positioning a blocking plate in a blocking position relative to said main locking device such that the main locking device remains engaged with the dumpster container; and

biasing said blocking plate in said blocking position.

9. The method according to Claim 8 wherein said biasing said blocking plate in said blocking position comprises:

actuating a handle linkage pivotally coupled to said blocking plate to raise said blocking plate to an unblocking position, said unblocking position being less than an overcenter position to permit said blocking plate to return to said blocking position under gravity.

10. A method of actuating a lockable dumpster container, the method comprising:

engaging the container with a main locking device such that the dumpster container remains in a storage position;

positioning a blocking plate in a blocking position relative to said main locking device such that the main locking device remains engaged with the dumpster container;

rotating a handle linkage pivotally coupled to said blocking plate to raise said blocking plate to an unblocking position, said unblocking position being less than an overcenter position to permit said blocking plate to return to said blocking position under gravity;

maintaining said blocking plate in said unblocking position while simultaneously rotating said main locking device into a disengaged position to release said main locking device from said dumpster container.

11. The method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

releasing said handle linkage causing said blocking plate to freely fall into said blocking position under the force of gravity.

12. The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

slipping a handle extension simultaneously over said handle linkage and said main locking device, said handle extension maintain said blocking member in said unblocking position.

13. A locking device for a dumpster container, said dumpster container being movable between an upright storing position and a tilted dumping position, said locking device comprising:

a main locking device selectively moveable between an engaged position, where said main locking device engages the dumpster container to retain the dumpster container in the upright storing position, and a disengaged position, where said main locking device disengages the dumpster container to permit movement of the dumpster container into the tilted dumping position;

a blocking plate pivotally coupled to said main locking device, said blocking plate being selectively moveable between a blocking position, where said blocking plate prevents said main locking device from moving from said engaged position to said disengaged position, and an unblocking position;

an interconnecting linkage pivotally coupled at a first end to said blocking plate; and

a handle linkage pivotally coupled to said main locking device and a second end of said interconnecting linkage, said handle linkage being selectively moveable to move said blocking plate between said blocking position and said unblocking position.

14. The locking device according to Claim 13 wherein said unblocking position of said blocking plate occurs prior to an overcenter position.

15. The locking device according to Claim 13 wherein said handle linkage is angularly shaped such that when said blocking plate is in said unblocking position, a free end of said handle linkage is generally parallel to and adjacent said main locking device.

16. The locking device according to Claim 13, further comprising:

a handle extension simultaneously engagable with said handle linkage and said main locking device.

17. The locking device according to Claim 13 wherein said blocking plate is biased into said blocking position in response to gravity.